9/10/77

Dear Les,

In today's mail I received a tape of the Gil Noble shoz of 5/8/77. I take it this is the entire show although it ran only about a half-hour.

If this is all of it do not bother to dub your tape.

It makes my hearing the entire Redditt interview more important.

If the Noble staff people have the full tapes from which excerpts were used I'd very much appreciate dubs of them, mostly for the archive but in part for possible use in writing now.

If I can't do such things as hear your interview pretty soon I'm not going to have time to do it. I can't spend all my time acquiring data and none being able to use it.

I remain troubled about some of this. Not about Redditt's honesty or his intent to be honest. About that I have no doubt, although I do wish he'd gotten in touch with me so we could talk, as he promised to do in April a year ago. I regret it even more now because his mind has been toyed with by the Lane method. Regardless of how good a cop he was this can't be avoided.

Some of his facts are wrong. This is because he had no first-hand knowledge. They are wrong by omission. Some, I believe, are normal confabulation. Some probably the normal workings of time and retrospective wish.

Whether or not you realize it his conjectures are an exact parallel of the white-racist backstop position, black militants did it.

If you can find time to ask the Noble staff or SCLC people or any others for some of what was ~~used~~ used, I do not need the "Mountaintop" speech. I have a tape of it and of "I Had a Dream." If you know of any transcripts I'd appreciate them. I might use more of Mountaintop in the text and the texts of it or both in the notes or appendix. There must be much more than Noble (or you) used of recorded eyewitness statements and the great statement on working conditions and desires. Its directness and simplicity compare with the magnificent King oratory so they enhance each other. To me, anyway.

Best,